

and utilities have also been developed and resource centres set up for the languages included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution to enable their use on computer and the internet.

Government is aware of the decline in the use of tribal languages because of demographical and sociological reasons and of the need for preserving and promoting those languages through diverse methods including software. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, has been researching into and publishing material in various tribal languages so as to make their teaching possible in schools. It has also provided training to teachers in different tribal languages. The Institute has also set up an Electronic Education Unit to focus on research in Information Technology and Indian Languages and to promote the cause of electronic education in mother tongue.

Burden of books on primary/secondary level students

† 296. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that educationists have expressed concern over students in the country ailing due to increasing burden of books, particularly those studying at primary and Secondary levels;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to reduce the increasing burden of their bags; and

(c) if so, what action plan Government have chalked out or what steps have been taken keeping in view the above fact, and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Advisory Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal made a number of recommendations regarding the reduction of the academic burden on school children. In the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education, the State

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The Government have impressed upon the State Governments/UTs from time to time for expeditious implementation of the recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations has been initiated by most States and Central Agencies. The New National curriculum Framework for School Education brought out by NCERT recently emphasises reduction of curriculum load at all levels. This has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for implementation of the suggestions made therein.

Bringing Sanskrit Vidyalayas under Government Control

*297. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to bring Sanskrit Vidyapeethas and Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas under the complete control of the Ministry;

(b) whether Government, with a view to maintaining studies and discipline, would consider to transfer the employees working in those institutions from one institute to the other; and

(c) if so, by when the same is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) 8 Sanskrit Vidyapeethas are administratively controlled by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan an autonomous body of this Ministry. Further, the Sansthan provides financial assistance to 21 Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas which are administratively controlled by their respective Committees. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring these Vidyapeethas and Mahavidyalayas under its complete control.

(b) and (c) The employees of the Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeethas can be transferred from one Vidyapeeth to another. There is at present no proposal before the Government to implement a similar transfer policy for the Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.